

Currently Pending Claims

1. (original) A spittoon system for a printing mechanism having a printhead with a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction, comprising:

a frame; and

a roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said printhead.

2. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 1 for a printing mechanism having a second printhead, further comprising a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a second axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said second printhead.

3. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 1 for a printing mechanism having a second printhead, wherein said roller is oriented to receive ink spit from said second printhead.

4. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 1, further comprising a drive motor coupled to rotate said roller.

5. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 4, further comprising a gear train which couples the motor to the roller.

6. (original) A spittoon system according to claim

1, wherein the frame defines a waste ink reservoir located to receive waste ink from said roller.

7. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 6, further comprising a liner of an absorbent material located within said waste ink reservoir.

8. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 1 for a printing mechanism having second, third, and forth printheads, further comprising:

a second roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a second axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said second printhead;

a third roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a third axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said third printhead; and

a fourth roller mounted to the frame for rotation and about a fourth axis oriented in said first direction to receive ink spit from said fourth printhead.

9. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 8, further comprising:

a drive motor;

a gear train which couples the motor to said roller, said second roller, said third roller, and said fourth roller;

wherein the frame defines a waste ink reservoir located to receive waste ink from said roller, said second roller, said third roller, and said fourth roller;

plural scrapers mounted to said frame to engage said rollers and remove waste ink therefrom; and

a liner of an absorbent material located within said

waste ink reservoir.

10. (original) A method of purging waste ink from a printhead of a printing mechanism having printheads for dispensing ink, comprising:

positioning at least some of said printheads over rollers; and

purging waste ink from said printheads onto the said rollers.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein said printheads have nozzles which dispense said ink, and said positioning comprises positioning said rollers a substantially uniform distance from said nozzles.

12. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein said printheads form a first contour and said positioning comprises positioning said rollers in a second contour similar to the first contour.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said first contour comprises an arcuate shape, and said second contour comprises an arcuate shape.

14. (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said first contour comprises a semicircular shape, and said second contour comprises a semicircular shape.

15. (original) A spittoon system for a printing mechanism having a printhead with a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in a first direction, comprising:

means for receiving ink spit from said printhead; and

means for rotating said means for receiving ink about an axis oriented in said first direction.

16. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 15 wherein said printing mechanism has a second printhead with a substantially linear nozzle array oriented in said first direction, and further comprising:

means for receiving ink spit from said second printhead; and

means for rotating said means for receiving ink spit from said second printhead about a second axis oriented in said first direction, said second axis distinct from said axis.

17. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 15 further comprising means for storing waste ink.

18. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 15 further comprising means for scraping waste ink from said means for receiving ink.

19. (original) A spittoon system according to claim 15 further comprising:

means for scraping waste ink from said means for receiving ink;

means for storing waste ink;

means for absorbing waste ink in said means for storing; and

wherein said means for rotating comprises a motor and means for transferring rotational motion from said motor to said means for receiving ink.

20. (original) A printing mechanism, comprising:  
a chassis defining a printzone and a servicing zone;  
a printhead having a substantially linear nozzle array  
oriented in a first direction;  
a carriage which moves the printhead through the  
printzone and the servicing zone;  
a frame located in the servicing zone; and  
a roller mounted to the frame for rotation about an  
axis oriented in said first direction and located to  
receive ink spit from said printhead.